



03560.002936.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#6
LID
7-29-04

In re Application of:)
KOJIRO KATAYAMA ET AL.)
Application No.: 09/987,487)
Filed: November 15, 2001)
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING)
METHOD FOR MANAGING)
EQUIPMENT, EQUIPMENT)
MANAGING PROGRAM,)
RECORDING MEDIUM STORING)
EQUIPMENT MANAGING)
PROGRAM, AND EQUIPMENT)
MANAGING METHOD :

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Group Art Unit: 2152

July 13, 2004

RECEIVED
JUL 15 2004
Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,388,252
U.S. Patent No. 5,678,002

Europe 0 921 465 A2
Europe 0 474 058 A2

PCT 97/15009

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated May 19, 2004, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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